

State of Wisconsin

Natural Disasters

Report

2000

## **ANNUAL NATURAL DISASTER REPORT**

The year 2000 was busy, which by recent standards means it was a typical year for disasters. Milwaukee experienced a category F1 tornado in early March that caused \$3.8 million in damages to commercial structures and nearly \$400,000 to residential structures near General Mitchell Airport. The event did not qualify for federal disaster assistance. Between the beginning of May and the end of July there were a series of very damaging storms resulting in three separate incidents that did lead to a disaster declaration. The first incident occurred during the late morning of May 12, 2000. A major storm or supercell developed in east Wisconsin. The storm produced baseball size hail and winds in excess of 60 mph, which caused considerable damage in Waushara, Winnebago, Calumet and Manitowoc Counties. The small towns of Omro, Chilton, Valders and especially St. Nazianz were hardest hit with downed trees, destroyed homes and barns and extensive hail damage to crops and livestock. Chilton and St. Nazianz were particularly hard-hit by hail and wet microbursts that produced straight line winds over 100 mph and a brief F1 tornado. A federal disaster declaration was not requested, however the event qualified for Small Business Administration assistance in the form of low interest loans to individuals and businesses.

The second incident did result in a federal disaster declaration, FEMA-1332-DR-WI. On June 23, 2000, the President declared this disaster for 12 counties as a result of severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding that began on May 26. However, additional severe weather extended the incident period of the disaster. By the end of the incident period (July 19), thirty counties had been included in the declaration; thirteen counties for both Public and Individual Assistance (Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Richland, Sauk, Vernon and Walworth,) fourteen for Public Assistance only (Adams, Ashland, Barron, Burnett, Forest, Green, Iron, Jackson, Monroe, Oneida, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn,) and another three (Dodge, Racine and Waukesha) for Individual Assistance. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program was made eligible statewide.

May was a particularly wet month in the southern half of the state. Data from the National Weather Service (NWS) indicated that it was the wettest month ever for most locations in southern Wisconsin going back through the weather books to 1870. Generally, 8 to 11 inches were measured, with some locations in eastern Iowa and Dane Counties unofficially receiving between 16 and 18 inches. The wet, rainy weather culminated in a series of severe thunderstorms and heavy rains that began May 26 and continued into early June. The storms produced record rainfalls, tornadoes and hurricane force winds. From 9:00 p.m. on May 29 through 8:00 p.m. on June 2, another 8 to 10 inches of rain fell along a line from southern Vernon County through northern Richland County to central Sauk County, over northwest Iowa County into northwest Dane County, and over northern Lafayette County. The heavy rains pushed most mainstream rivers over flood stage and caused severe and widespread flooding.

Three tornadoes were documented on June 1, in Dodge, Juneau and Monroe Counties. The one in Dodge County, an F2, occurred just after 6:00 p.m. and was on the ground for more than 16 miles. The tornado destroyed or did major damage to several dozen homes in Iron Ridge, a small community of 800 in Dodge County. Elsewhere, there were notable downburst wind gusts in the 75 to 100 mph range, accompanied by hail as large as golf balls. Rains reappeared on June 3-4 and added another one to two inches to already saturated soils.

The collective impact of these series of storms was tremendous, especially to the infrastructure of the counties. For many of the communities, roads were severely damaged with washouts, scouring, culverts washed away and bridges destroyed. Just getting the main roads passable was a tremendous burden on the towns, which sometime have a one or two person road crew. Because of multiple storms, some roads

or sections of road were damaged repeatedly, with crews just effecting repairs, only to have them washed out again several days later. High winds and tornadoes also blocked roads with debris and downed power and utility lines. In Juneau and Monroe Counties especially, debris was just shoved to the side of the major roads so as to provide access for emergency vehicles and power crews. It was weeks before debris was totally removed. This was of great concern to local officials and residents, as many of the roads were narrow and the debris could impede emergency vehicles. Even after the cleanup of the roads and right-of-ways there remained acres of downed timber and debris on private land and in local, county and state forests.

The high winds and flooding also impaired electrical service and took their toll on the rural electric cooperatives. Power crews did a commendable job of restoring service, considering the multiple events, the widespread area impacted and the condition of the roadways. Telephone service was also affected and it took at least 2 weeks to have all service fully restored.

Dozens of homes were also affected by the flooding and severe winds. In the majority of the counties, basement flooding was common, jeopardizing furnaces and water heaters. Grant County reported at least a dozen homes that had major damage or were destroyed. Several communities reported sewer back up in residences. Still others had access problems, as roads were either blocked with debris, inundated with water or had bridges washed away. Private well contamination and septic tank problems were also being reported. Thousands of residences and businesses were affected by the widespread power outages and even those citizens whose structures sustained no physical damage, had to deal with spoiled food or commodities. Shelters were opened, as necessary, in the affected areas to accommodate those displaced from their homes or to serve as relief stations for those involved with the cleanup.

Initial damages assessment figures reported \$11.4 million in private property and \$17.3 million in public damages for a total of \$28.7 million. A preliminary damage assessment was completed for sixteen counties. On June 13, the state requested that Public Assistance be made available to sixteen counties and Individual Assistance for ten of the counties plus contiguous counties.

Another major storm system moved across the southeastern corner of the state on June 12 and 13. Kenosha and Walworth Counties received 3 to 5 inches of rain on already heavily saturated soils. Since the Governor's original request, rains continued to fall across southern Wisconsin. In Kenosha, damages were countywide and the County Executive declared a State of Emergency. At one point, more than 100 roads were closed due to high water with 41 county roads remaining closed for several days. Property owners reported losses due to basement flooding, sewer backup and backed up wells. A boating unit assisted with evacuations of a mobile home park in Pleasant Prairie and homes in the Town of Somers. Several communities in Walworth County were also impacted. One village evacuated 100 residences bordering a rapidly rising retention pond.

On June 23, the President declared twelve counties from the Governor's original request eligible for Public Assistance only. On June 28, FEMA advised that Individual Assistance would not be granted, as it was determined that the impacts to individuals were not beyond state and local capabilities. The Governor appealed the above decision on June 30, as additional damages were uncovered in several counties, including Dane, Grant and Kenosha. The appeal requested that FEMA re-evaluate the information in his June 13 and 14 letters and make Individual Assistance available to the twelve counties and all contiguous counties.

On June 30, the disaster declaration was amended to add Columbia, Kenosha, Jackson and Walworth Counties for Public Assistance only. Subsequent to the Governor's appeal, on July 11, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Vernon and Walworth Counties were all declared eligible for Individual Assistance.

## *Wisconsin Emergency Management*

On July 2, still more storms roared through southeastern Wisconsin. Strong winds and heavy rains (4 to 6.5 inches) with the subsequent loss of power caused water and sewage to back up in nearly 7,000 homes. That storm also spawned a F1 tornado that affected the City of Oak Creek and portions of northern Racine County. On July 10, the Division Administrator on behalf of the Governor asked that both Public and Individual Assistance be extended to Milwaukee County, and Public Assistance in Racine County. In addition, he requested that the incident period be extended to July 5. Ironically, the incident period was closed effective July 5. However, on July 8 and 9 the State once again experienced another 4 to 10 inches of rain that resulted in flash flooding in many of the same areas already included in the declaration. In Sauk, Vernon and Crawford Counties, roads affected in the earlier storms were once again damaged, in some cases more severely. With soils saturated and rivers and lakes at or near flood stage, most of the southern half of the State remained at risk with damages occurring with each storm event. Damages were also reported in Barron, Burnett, Forest, Oneida, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn. As a result, on July 12 the Governor requested that the incident period be reopened.

On July 13, Public Assistance was extended to Milwaukee County. This would be the third presidential disaster declaration in four years for the county. On July 13, the Division Administrator requested that in addition to Public Assistance, that Individual Assistance also be granted to Racine County. Effective July 18, Racine County was made eligible for Individual Assistance, but denied Public Assistance. In addition, the counties of Richland and Sauk were also made eligible for Individual Assistance.

As a result of the storms that occurred over the weekend of the 10th, ten sparsely populated counties in the northern half of the state were most seriously impacted, sustaining almost \$2 million in Public Assistance costs with almost \$1 million in road damages. Therefore, on July 17, the Division Administrator requested that Ashland, Barron, Burnett, Forest, Iron, Oneida, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn Counties be included in the declaration for Public Assistance. On July 18, the request was granted. In addition, the incident period was closed effective July 19.

Based on calls received on the FEMA teleregistration number, on July 21 the State Coordinating Officer requested that Individual Assistance be granted to Columbia, Iowa, Juneau and Waukesha Counties, and on August 8 for Juneau County. The requests were granted on July 26 and August 9.

As of November 22, 2000, 10,461 individuals had registered for disaster assistance. Under the Disaster Housing Program, 4,139 individuals were eligible for assistance with more than \$6 million disbursed. In the Individual and Family Grant Program, 4,004 applications have been approved for the program with \$4.4 million issued to disaster victims making it the second largest IFG program in terms of dollars for the state. The Public Assistance Program received 444 applications for disaster assistance totaling to date \$13,969,024, making it the second largest Public Assistance program in the state outside of the 1993 Midwest Floods. In addition, over 700 loans have been approved through the Small Business Administration totaling nearly \$8 million to assist individuals and businesses.

The third major incident of the year 2000 resulted in a request for assistance on September 22, 2000. The Governor requested that Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties be designated a federal disaster area as a result of severe storms and flooding that occurred on September 11 and 12. The storms resulted in rainfalls of 6 to 8 inches in Eau Claire County, with 7.59 inches reported in the City of Eau Claire. The National Weather Service (NWS) estimated that 6 inches fell on Sunday night, thus breaking the one-day record rainfall of 4.39 inches in August 1959. As much as 6.74 inches fell in Chippewa County. The floodwaters damaged retaining walls, catch basins and streets and highways. High water also wrecked havoc with the municipal sewers and other public utilities. Basement and first floor flooding occurred in more than 300 homes, some of which sustained major structural damage. Sewer backup also presented a problem for many homeowners and renters. Approximately a dozen businesses were similarly impacted.

In addition to flooding, strong winds caused downed trees and power lines. A 70-foot long, 20-foot wide and 15 foot deep sinkhole formed when a sewer collapsed. Tragically, one person lost his life when he drove his auto around the safety barricades, his car sunk and he drowned. In Chippewa County, the county highway garage burnt to the ground along with their sign manufacturing facility and a large number of signs in inventory when an antenna mounted on the building was struck by lightning and blew out the transformers in the building. Three trucks were also destroyed and four single-axle plow trucks seriously damaged. The request for assistance was denied. The Governor appealed the decision and the appeal was also denied. However, a Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration was granted making low-interest loans available to individuals and businesses that were impacted by the storms.

December 2000 proved to be one of the 10 coldest Decembers on record for most of the state. In addition, record or near record snow depths occurred over much of southern Wisconsin the month. Thirteen counties received a Presidential Emergency Declaration and were eligible to receive federal funds for extraordinary expenses associated with clearing roads and emergency response efforts associated with the heavy snowfall. The thirteen counties that were declared in the snow emergency were Columbia, Dane, Door, Green, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth and Waukesha Counties.

Since 1990 there have been 13 Presidential Declarations received in Wisconsin. A total of 67 of the state's 72 counties were impacted by these 13 declarations. Damage estimates for the 13 declarations totaled in excess of \$1.16 billion. As a result of the declarations over \$441 million in disaster relief was made available to the citizens and governments that were affected.

Among the 13 declarations was the Great Flood of 1993, the state's most costly and largest disaster. Damage estimates for that disaster exceeded \$747,000,000 in the 47 counties impacted. The incidence period for this disaster extended from June 7 through August 25 and illustrates the severity and duration of the record event. Unprecedented amounts of federal disaster assistance were received, because eight other Midwestern states were also ravaged by floods and Congress deemed it necessary to provide supplemental assistance over and above that received through a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Consequently, the 47 counties impacted by this event were the recipients of almost \$300,000,000 in disaster relief. More than 600 municipalities and 4,500 individuals in the 47 counties were the beneficiaries.

Another hallmark for the 1993 flood declaration was in the area of hazard mitigation. This declaration marked the inception of the Wisconsin Interagency Disaster Recovery Group (IDRG), a consortium of state and federal agencies whose primary objective was to identify and support local efforts to prevent or reduce damages from a similar event in the future. To this end, major floodproofing and acquisition projects were funded in a number of locales, including the City of Darlington, the City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County and Pierce County. The concept and work of the IDRG was so successful that it continues to function and meet on a regular basis. Since that time, there is an even greater emphasis on hazard mitigation and the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, made available in a Presidential Disaster Declaration, continues to be the major funding source for accomplishing projects.

In 1998 the Governor requested an unprecedented four Presidential Disaster Declarations. The four incidents that prompted those requests resulted in more than \$163 million in disaster damage. They included a major wind storm in May that affected 16 counties, another major wind storm in June that affected 14 counties, a significant flood event in August that impacted 5 counties, and a tornado that ravaged Door County in late August. Unfortunately, only the June and early August incidents qualified for federal assistance, in spite of the Governor's appeals. While insurance and federal disaster assistance

## *Wisconsin Emergency Management*

helped cover some of the costs of these disasters, the State of Wisconsin, its citizens and local governments shouldered the greatest share, especially for the two incidents that were not declared. We would be remiss if we did not underscore the fact that, other than the disasters that qualify for federal disaster assistance, the state experiences, on the average, three to five disasters each year for which no federal assistance is even requested. These are incidents that would not qualify for a Presidential Declaration, but still place a substantial burden on the impacted citizens and local governments.

As we begin the new millennium, we in state and local government must continue to emphasize mitigation and the importance of its role in the emergency management cycle. While for years our jobs have focused on doing a good job of reacting to disasters, we must now place equal emphasis on being proactive and on making our communities disaster resistant. Floodproofing and acquisition projects such as those carried out in recent years in the City of Darlington, the City of Eau Claire, the County of Eau Claire and on Trenton and Blackhawk Islands and those in process in the cities of Milwaukee, Brookfield, Elm Grove, New Berlin, Menomonee Falls, Sheboygan, Wauwatosa and Kenosha County serve to prevent or minimize damage when disasters do occur. We must continue to address those structures that have been built in harm's way and determine how best to retrofit them, or if reasonable, acquire them. As important, however, is forging relationships with planning and zoning officials and departments to ensure that new development is undertaken only after considering a communities' vulnerabilities to hazards.

These are exciting and challenging times in emergency management and we look forward to meeting the challenges into this new century. In closing, Wisconsin Emergency Management is indebted to the many state and local government agencies that have cooperated in conducting damage inspections and obtaining the data necessary to request and receive federal assistance. It is because of this excellent spirit of cooperation that the State of Wisconsin is able to respond promptly and efficiently to the needs of its disaster victims and is also able to minimize damages before they occur.

*Wisconsin Emergency Management*

**NATURAL DISASTER DAMAGE IN WISCONSIN**

1971 - December 31, 2000

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF COUNTIES</u>		<u>STATE AND</u>	<u>STATE AND</u>	<u>ESTIMATED</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
				<u>FEDERAL MONEY</u>	<u>FEDERAL MONEY</u>	<u>PUBLIC</u>	<u>DAMAGE</u>	
				<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>(Gov't. Prop.</u>	<u>(Indiv. Prop.,</u>	
				<u>(For Public or</u>	<u>(For Private or</u>	<u>&amp; Facilities)</u>	<u>Crops, &amp; Facilities)</u>	
				<u>Gov't Assist.)</u>	<u>Indiv. Assist.)</u>			
2000*	Heavy rains/severe storms 2 Flooding	<u>1</u> ✓		0	1,547,000	1,100,000	1,800,000	2,900,000
2000**	Heavy rains/severe storms 30 Flooding	<u>2</u>		18,114,937	18,742,906	37,556,388	25,242,248	62,798,636
1999**	Heavy rains/severe storms 10 Flooding	<u>3</u>		5,916,859	—	6,500,000	1,500,000	8,000,000
1998*	Tornadoes/severe storms 1	<u>4</u>		—	—	15,500	6,509,030	6,524,530
1998**	Severe storms/flooding 5	<u>5</u>		11,023,053	26,518,256	10,687,346	44,025,738	54,713,084
1998**	High winds/severe storms 14	<u>6</u>		10,481,638	—	11,115,989	36,806,899	47,922,888
1998*	High winds/severe storms 16	<u>7</u>		-	-	5,832,845	47,892,964	53,725,809
1997**	Flooding/Heavy rains 4	<u>8</u>		17,160,019	37,620,733	17,064,946	70,667,000	87,731,946
1996**	Flooding/Tornadoes 2	<u>9</u>		2,450,546	-	11,366,650	49,748,000	61,114,650
1996*	Flooding 15	<u>10</u>		-	-	4,689,700	194,336,539	199,026,239
1994*	Tornadoes/severe storms 2	<u>11</u>		-	-	1,195,750	8,508,290	9,704,040
1993**	Flooding, Tornadoes, Storms, Heavy Rain 47	<u>12</u>		26,683,822	<u>13</u> 271,761,899	<u>14</u> 47,000,000	700,000,000	747,000,000
1992**	Flooding 10			3,143,715	126,402	<u>15</u> 1,917,000	15,838,286	17,755,286
1992**	Tornadoes 1			945,138	391,881	<u>16</u> 1,800,000	8,301,900	10,101,900
1992**	Tornadoes 1			3,054,759	0	<u>17</u> 5,362,500	9,020,000	14,382,500
1991**	Severe Storms/High Winds 5			3,850,598	0	<u>18</u> 3,696,000	23,001,283	26,697,283
1990**	Flooding 1			0	1,369,602	<u>19</u> 2,245,206	3,984,532	6,229,738
1990**	Flooding/Tornadoes 17			6,471,321	7,340,689	<u>20</u> 4,600,000	16,524,222	21,124,222
1986**	Flooding 8			0	3,148,856	<u>21</u> 267,000	5,628,125	5,895,125
1986**	Flooding 2			2,071,063	7,037,267	<u>22</u> 4,262,500	15,737,500	20,000,000
1985*	Flooding 3			0	0	1,327,000	1,339,000	2,666,000
1985*	Tornadoes, High Winds, Hail, and Lightning 3			0	0	1,018,200	8,928,380	9,946,580
1984**	Tornadoes 2			775,394	<u>23</u> 11,168,220	<u>24</u> 880,890	20,569,000	21,449,890

✓ (See Notes on following pages)

# Wisconsin Emergency Management

YEAR	EVENT	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	STATE AND FEDERAL MONEY		STATE AND FEDERAL MONEY (For Private or Indiv. Assist.)	ESTIMATED DAMAGE		TOTAL
			RECEIVED (For Public or Gov't Assist.)			PUBLIC (Gov't. Prop. & Facilities)	PRIVATE (Indiv. Prop., Crops, & Facilities)	
1984****	Tornadoes	3	531,523		0	2,135,500	26,423,222	28,558,722
1980*	Flooding	6	0		0	2,803,000	3,052,217	5,855,217
1980**	High Winds, Tornadoes, Heavy Rains	4	2,367,824	<u>25</u>	4,119,380	6,468,000	153,243,650	159,711,650
1980*	High Winds, Heavy Rains	11	0		63,600	3,570,933	86,904,000	10,474,933
1980****	Forest Fires	2	25,010		709,300	4,000,000	1,235,000	5,235,000
1979****	Snow	3	962,000		0			
1978**	Flooding and Tornadoes	16	5,000,000		20,745,150	<u>26</u> 11,662,450	39,710,820	51,373,270
1977* **** ***	High Winds and Hail	13	610,957		704,440	<u>27</u> 34,488,900	26,278,287	60,767,187
1977*	Tornado	6	0		0	<u>28</u> 222,000	6,036,500	6,258,500
1976****	Drought	66	8,858,250		119,576,674	<u>29</u> 1,000,000	623,000,000	624,000,000
1976**	Ice Storm	22	6,000,000		125,000	<u>30</u> 8,450,674	42,028,665	50,479,339
1975	Army Worm Infestation	29	0		0	<u>31</u> 0	8,100,000	8,100,000
1975**	Flood and High Wind	4	591,922		200,000	<u>32</u> 1,451,200	3,791,000	5,242,200
1975*	Flood	8				633,500	1,800,000	2,433,500
1974***	Rain, Hail, Frost, & Drought	68			106,296,850	<u>33</u>	350,000,000	350,000,000
1974**	Tornadoes	4	100,000		500,000	412,135	8,507,040	8,919,175
1973**	Floods	35	3,000,000		10-12,000,000 9,200,000	<u>34</u> <u>35</u> 4,000,000	20,000,000	24,000,000
1972**	Floods	4	450,000		1,400,000	<u>36</u> 600,000	2,000,000	2,600,000
1971*	Tornadoes	7	130,000			0	2,211,000	2,211,000
1971*	Floods	24						
TOTALS		<u>504</u>	<u>131,769,758</u>		<u>661,234,471</u>	<u>263,399,702</u>	<u>2,640,230,337</u>	<u>2,903,630,039</u>

\* Presidential Disaster Declaration Applied for; Denied by Federal Government  
 \*\* Presidential Disaster Declaration Approved for State  
 \*\*\* USDA-SBA Disaster Declarations Approved Upon Governor's Request  
 \*\*\*\* Presidential Emergency Declaration Approved Upon Governor's Request  
 \*\*\*\*\* Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration pending



## NOTES FOR THE NATURAL DISASTER DAMAGE TABLE

- 1 The \$1,547,000 was received from the Small Business Administration and represents 41 home loans made to individuals totaling \$679,100, 4 loans to businesses for physical damages totaling \$475,500 and 3 loans to businesses for economic injury related to the storm totaling \$392,400.
- 2 The \$18,742,906 in private sector assistance includes \$6,267,491 in federal Disaster Housing Program funds and \$4,504,015 in the Individual and Family Grant Program. The remainder is from the Small Business Administration and represents 661 home loans made to individuals totaling \$7,234,200, 40 loans to businesses for physical damages totaling \$554,800 and 28 loans to businesses for economic injury related to the storm totaling 182,400. The public sector assistance includes \$13,695,918 in total Public Assistance (\$10,271,939 federal share) and \$4,424,019 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds (\$3,313,014 federal share).
- 3 The \$5,916,859 in public sector assistance represents \$5,116,859 in monies obligated for the Public Assistance Program and \$800,000 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Approximately \$3,352,710 in Public Assistance had already been paid out as of the date of this publication. Individual assistance was not requested from the federal government as part of this declaration.
- 4 Request for Presidential Declaration was denied on the basis that most of the losses were covered by insurance and that the remaining costs were within the capabilities of the state and local governments. A subsequent appeal by the Governor was also denied.
- 5 The \$7,561,053 in public sector funding represents monies obligated and includes \$3,110,632 for the Public Assistance Program and \$4,450,421 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The private sector figure represents the total of loans from the Small Business Administration (\$12,479,500), Disaster Housing Grants (\$8,824,255), Individual and Family Grants (\$5,147,127), the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program (\$3,253) and the Crisis Counseling Program (\$64,121). The declared counties also received a special HUD CDBG grant award in the amount of \$3,462,000.
- 6 The Presidential Declaration included only Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation, even though Individual Assistance was also requested. This exclusion was appealed, however the appeal was also denied on the basis that most of the private sector losses were covered by insurance. The \$10,481,638 in public sector funding represents monies obligated and includes more than \$8,519,173 for the Public Assistance Program and \$1,962,465 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- 7 Request for Presidential Declaration was denied on the basis that most of the losses were covered by insurance and that the remaining costs were within the capabilities of the state and local governments. A subsequent appeal by the Governor was also denied.
- 8 Damage figures are based on original estimates received from county emergency management directors. More than 14,000 individuals applied for assistance from the Disaster Housing, Small Business Administration and Individual and Family Grant Programs. This represents the largest Individual Assistance Program ever administered in the state. Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Programs are still being administered. When completed, it is estimated that \$6,795,016 will be paid out in the Public Assistance Program and that \$6,265,003 will go toward Hazard Mitigation Grants. The declared counties also received a special HUD CDBG grant award in the amount of \$4.1 million.
- 9 A Presidential Disaster Declaration was declared on August 2 for Public Assistance only. An appeal to have Individual Assistance added to the declaration was denied. Green County was declared eligible for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration.
- 10 Both the original request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration and a subsequent appeal were denied. The private damage figure reflects an estimated \$180 million in crop losses.
- 11 Low-interest loans were made available by the Small Business Administration. Information is not available as to the number of loans approved and the amount.
- 12 Funds disbursed include aid to the agricultural community totaling \$230,742,262; loans through SBA for individual and businesses totaling \$10,394,929; 840 Individual and Family Grants totaling \$1,492,267; and Disaster Housing Grants for \$3,944,158. Close to 4,500 people applied for disaster assistance through the FEMA programs.
- 13 Funds disbursed to date include \$5,008,911 in Community Development Block Grants, \$1,525,000 in Community Services Block Grants, \$1,019,309 in Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Funds, among other programs. Over 600 state and local governments have received almost \$20 million in grants through the Public Assistance Program. The cost share for this declaration under the Public Assistance Program was increased from 75% to 90% federal (FEMA) funds with the state splitting the remaining 10% with the applicant.

## *Wisconsin Emergency Management*

- 14 Forty counties declared for both Individual and Public Assistance programs, and another seven for Individual Assistance. Incident period for the declaration was June 7 - August 25, 1993.
- 15 This figure represents the amount of assistance provided by the Individual and Family Grant Program. It does not include the amount of assistance provided by the Disaster Housing Program and the Small Business Administration.
- 16 This figure represents the amount of assistance provided by the Individual and Family Grant Program and Crisis Counseling Grant. It does not include the amount of assistance provided by the Disaster Housing Program and the Small Business Administration.
- 17 This request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance was originally denied. An appeal of the denial was made on July 27 and the result of the appeal was that a declaration was granted.
- 18 This declaration was made by the President on August 6, 1991, for public assistance only, as most of the losses to the private sector were covered by insurance. The Farmers Home Administration Emergency Loan Program was also made available.
- 19 Both individual and public assistance were requested, however, only individual assistance was granted in this declaration. A subsequent appeal for the public assistance program was also denied. The bulk of public damage was to the Lake Tomah Dam and the Tomah Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- 20 This was the first declaration received by the state subsequent to the passage of the amended disaster law, Public Law 100-707, The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The law expanded eligibility under the public assistance program and also made a new Hazard Mitigation Grant Program available under Section 404.
- 21 As a result of FEMA-775-DR, the Small Business Administration has approved 237 loan applications totaling \$2,562,600. The Individual and Family Grant Program approved 519 grants totaling \$586,256.
- 22 As a result of FEMA-770-DR, the Small Business Administration has approved 649 loan applications totaling \$5,568,000. The Individual and Family Grant Program approved 1,154 grants totaling \$1,468,667.
- 23 As a result of FEMA-710-DR, the Small Business Administration approved 63 project loan applications totaling \$3,683,600. The Individual and Family Grant Program approved 64 grants totaling \$171,967. The Farmers Home Administration approved 484 loans for \$11,168,220.
- 24 The Public Assistance Program included 4 projects (Iowa County, Town of Brigham, Wisconsin Conservation Corps and the Village of Barneveld). Final payment was made to the Village of Barneveld on April 10, 1987.
- 25 This disaster marked the first time that the Federal Emergency Management Agency implemented cost-sharing for the public assistance program and mandated that the state and local governments pay for 25 percent of eligible costs. The Governor's Office, WEM and local officials worked diligently to overturn FEMA's policy, maintaining that it was contrary to the intent of Congress in passing Public Law 93-288, the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. Moreover, FEMA chose to implement the new policy without prior formal notification to the states and in an arbitrary manner. This is evidenced by the fact that various states were able to negotiate different rates of cost sharing, such as the 90/10 agreement obtained by the State of Arizona. The Governor eventually signed, under protest, the federal-state agreement putting the program into effect.
- 26 This figure includes over \$800,000 in home loans and \$2,000,000 in business loans made through the Small Business Administration; approximately \$750,000 given in outright grants through the Individual and Family Grant Program; and more than \$15,800,000 in loans through the Farmers Home Administration. It also includes \$244,529 paid out through the Emergency Conservation Measures Program and \$981,051 through the Set Aside Disaster Program.
- 27 The statistics listed refer to severe weather which occurred on July 4, July 30, and August 31. A Presidential Disaster Declaration was requested for the July 4 incident with a subsequent amendment to that request being filed to include the July 30 damages. The declaration request and amendment were denied in spite of the fact that the public and private damage figures for both incidents totaled \$57,267,187. The resulting burden placed on state and local governments and individual citizens and farmers was overwhelming. An emergency declaration, #3048-EM, was granted for the 10 counties suffering damage during the July 4 incident. This declaration only provided for removal of downed timber on publicly owned lands to avert fire hazards. A total of 92 project applications were approved, with a total of \$542,160 being disbursed. Requests were made to SBA and FmHA for disaster designations for all 12 counties involved in July 4 and July 30 incidents, and for the August 31 incident which involved Marathon County. Approved applications for all three occurrences totaled

## *Wisconsin Emergency Management*

\$704,440. This assistance allowed citizens and farmers to obtain long-term, low-interest loans (1 percent for the first \$10,000 - 3 percent for the next \$30,000) for real and personal property losses sustained as a result of the storms. Business loans were also made available.

- 28 A Presidential Disaster Declaration was requested for this particular incident and denied. Subsequent requests for disaster designations were made to SBA and FmHA and approved by both. Despite such assistance, more than \$222,000 in public damages had to be absorbed by the state and local governments. Also, most of the \$5,766,500 in private damages and \$270,000 in private utility damages had to be absorbed by the citizens and private utility companies respectively.
- 29 Losses include fire damage to local government forests and state and local government fire fighting costs. The great majority of losses were to farmers in lost production and income due to reduction in crop yields. The Hay Transportation Assistance Program paid out a total of \$7,757,515 to farmers. Through the payments from the Emergency Livestock Feed Program farmers received a total of \$9,039,450. The Farmers Home Administration approved 2,957 Emergency Disaster Loans for a total of \$78,264,990. FmHA also approved Emergency Livestock loans totaling \$2,584,300. The Small Business Administration approved applications for Physical Damage Loans for wells in the amount of \$164,700. In terms of public assistance, \$7,792,800 was paid out under the Community Emergency Drought Relief Programs. A total of \$625,000 was provided by HUD in the form of Community Development Grants. When all Drought Programs are combined, total federal monies paid out are \$119,434,924. This figure represents 19 percent of the \$624,000,000 in losses attributed to the drought.
- 30 The public assistance for governments was responsive. The \$125,000 is a combination of monies received by individuals for unemployment compensation, for Individual and Family Grants and for SBA and FmHA loans.
- 31 Loan assistance was requested from USDA-FmHA. Denied by FmHA who stated this was a cyclical phenomenon and not eligible under their regulations.
- 32 In private sector, includes grants for individuals and Small Business Administration and Farmers Home Administration loans. In addition, the USDA-SCS expended in excess of \$1,000,000 in soil conservation measures activities.
- 33 FmHA made over 6,700 loans (5 percent) to farmers, totaling over \$106,000,000 in obligated funds.
- 34 SBA loans with approximately half of the amount being forgiven.
- 35 FmHA made loans on the 1973 flood retroactively. Loans were made for 10 to 12 million dollars, with approximately 4 to 6 million dollars being outright grants or loan forgiveness.
- 36 Federal Government agencies (Small Business Administration and Farmers Home Administration) provided low-cost loans with forgiveness features (part of principal canceled) to private home owners, businessmen and farmers.

## **ACRONYMS**

USCE = UNITED STATES CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
USDA = UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FSA = FARM SERVICES AGENCY  
SBA = SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
HUD = HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
FEMA = FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# NATURAL DISASTER ACTIVITY BY COUNTY (1971-2000)



## KEY CHART

- A 1971 Tornado\*
- B 1971 Flood\*
- C 1972 Flood\*\*
- D 1973 Flood\*\*
- E 1974 Tornado\*\*
- F 1975 Flood\*
- G 1975 Floods and High Winds\*\*
- H 1975 Army Work Infestation
- I 1976 Ice Storm\*\*
- J 1976 Drought\*\*\*
- K 1977 Tornado\*
- L 1977 High Winds and Hail\*\*\*
- M 1978 Flooding and Tornadoes\*\*
- N 1979 Snow\*\*\*
- O 1980 Floods, Tornadoes, High Winds\*
- P 1980 High winds, Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes\*\*
- Q 1980 Floods\*
- R 1980 Fire\*\*\*
- S 1984 Tornadoes\*\*\*
- T 1984 Tornadoes\*\*
- U 1985 Tornadoes, High Winds, Lightning, Hail\*
- V 1985 Flash Flooding and Heavy Rains\*
- W 1986 Flooding\*\*
- X 1986 Flooding\*\*
- Y 1990 Flooding, Tornadoes\*\*
- Z 1990 Flooding\*\*
- A1 1991 Severe Storms\*\*
- A2 1992 Tornadoes\*\*
- A3 1992 Tornado\*\*
- A4 1992 Flooding\*\*

- A5 1993 Flooding\*\*
- A6 1994 Tornadoes/Severe Storms\*
- A7 1996 Flooding/Severe Storms\*
- A8 1996 Flooding/Tornadoes\*\*
- A9 1997 Flooding/Severe Storms\*\*
- A10 1998 High Winds/Severe Storms\*
- A11 1998 High Winds/Severe Storms\*\*
- A12 1998 Severe Storms/Flooding\*\*
- A13 1998 Tornadoes/Severe Storms\*
- A14 1999 Heavy Rain/Severe Storms/Flooding\*\*
- A15 2000 Heavy Rain/Severe Storms/Flooding\*\*
- A16 2000 Heavy Rain/Severe Storms/Flooding\*

- \* Signifies Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration Denied
- \*\* Signifies Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration Approved
- \*\*\* Signifies Request for Presidential Emergency Declaration Approved